

## Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 /059 W

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FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7474

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

USEEC BRUSSELS

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E.0. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, ILO, BR

SUBJ: ICFTU REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS ON EUROPEAN LABOR

REF: A) BRUSSELS 5128 NOTAL; B) BRASILIA 3145 NOTAL

SUMMARY: INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNION (ICFTU)  
OFFICIAL ENZO FRISO COMMENTED ON EUROPEAN AND LATIN AMERICAN  
LABOR DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING A TOUR OF SOUTH AMERICA. THIS MESSAGE  
SUMMARIZES HIS COMMENTS ON ATTITUDES WITHIN THE ICFTU, PORTUGAL,  
AND NORWAY'S KAARE SANDEGREN. END SUMMARY.

1. ICFTU OFFICIAL ENZO FRISO MADE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ON  
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION DEVELOPMENTS TO LABATT DURING A CONVERSATION  
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FOLLOWING FRISO'S MONTH LONG VISIT TO SIX SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES.  
A SEPARATE MESSAGE REPORTS FRISO'S COMMENTS ON BRAZIL.

2. CURRENTS WITHIN THE ICFTU:FRISO RECOUNTED SEVERAL INSTANCES  
WHERE THE EUROPEAN ICFTU AFFILIATES OVERRIDING INSISTENCE ON  
"LABOR UNITY" PLAYED COUNTER TO THE INTERESTS OF DEMOCRATIC LABOR  
IN OTHER AREAS. HE SAID HE ATTENDED ICFTU EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

IN A STAFF CAPACITY AND OFTEN HAD TO LOBBY AGAINST ILL ADVISED ACTIONS. HE CITED THE EXAMPLE OF THE ICFTU SPONSORED CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN MIGRANT LABOR WHICH WAS HELD IN LATE 1977. HE WAS ABLE TO PERSUADE ICFTU EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS TO LIMIT INVITATIONS TO THE NORTH AFRICAN UNIONS TO ONLY ICFTU AFFILIATES INSTEAD OF INVITING ALL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS (INCLUDING SOME COMMUNIST-ALIGNED) AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED. HE WAS NOT ABLE TO PREVENT, HOWEVER, AN INVITATION TO THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED PROTUGUESE LABOR CONFEDERATION, THE CGTP.

3. FRISO ON PORTUGAL: AS THE ICFTU REPRESENTATIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR PORTUGAL, FRISO VISITS THAT COUNTRY SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR. HE SAID HE IS COMPLETELY FED UP WITH SOCIALIST PRTY'S (PS) INABILITY TO RESOLVE ITS LONG-STANDING INTERNAL DIFFERENCES ON LABOR POLICY. PRIME MINISTER SOARES TOLD FRISO IN 1977 THAT THE PS REPEATEDLY HAD TO DRAFT POTENTIAL LABOR LEADERS DURING 1975 AND 1976 AS PARTY CANDIDATES FOR LOCAL OR CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS OR FOR PARTY FUNCTIONS. THE PARTY'S LABOR POLICY WAS ALLOWED TO DRIFT AND VARIOUS SOCIALIST LABOR LEADERS ARE STILL PULLING IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS:

--LABOR MINISTER MALDONADO GONELHA FAVORS BUILDING ALTERNATIVE, DEMOCRATIC FEDERATIONS AS A COUNTER TO THE CGTP, BUT WITHOUT OPENLY PROCLAIMING THE INTENTIONS OF DOING SO;

-- EX-LABOR MINISTER MARCELO CURTO STILL ADVOCATES WORKING  
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INDEPENDENTLY TO BUILD SOCIALIST STRENGTH WITHIN THE CGTP;

-- SOME MODERATE SOCIALISTS FAVOR THE INDEPENDENT OPEN LETTER ("CARTA ABERTA") MOVEMENT;

-- FORMER ICFTU CONTACT AND SOARES EX-LABOR ADVISOR PELAGIO MADUREIRA HAS UNDERTAKEN TO FORM A DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERATION ON HIS OWN. FRISO CRITICIZED MADUREIRA FOR HIS TENDENCY TO SEE THE CENTER FOR LABOR STUDIES AS A GOAL IN ITSELF RATHER THAN AS A TOOL FOR OBTAINING A GOAL.

4. ICFTU GIVES UP ON PORTUGAL: FRISO SAID THE ICFTU GAVE UP IN FRUSTRATION SUPPORTING PROGRAMS IN PORTUGAL AND, BY AN UNOFFICIAL UNDERSTANDING, LEFT IT TO THE GERMAN FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION TO DEVELOP LABOR TRAINING PROGRAMS THERE. FRISO KNOWS OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S LABOR TRAINING PROGRAM BUT DOES NOT CONSIDER IT AN ALTERNATIVE OF INTEREST TO THE ICFTU.

5. FRISO ON U.S. ROLE IN PORTUGAL: IN SPITE OF THE ICFTU'S INABILITY TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM, HE STRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT ANY U.S. LABOR TRAINING IN PROTUGAL WOULD ONLY BE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE. HE ADMITTED THE INCONSISTENCIES INVOLVED, E.G., THE ACTIVITIES

OF THE FRT'S POLITICAL PARTY FOUNDATIONS, BUT ARGUED THAT HE IS OFTEN SHOCKED AT THE ANTI U.S. TONE OF SOME ICFTU AFFILIATES' PUBLICATIONS. THE OUTCRY WHICH WOULD BE RAISED BY THE EUROPEAN LEFT AGAINST A U.S. LABOR TRAINING PROGRAM IN PORTUGAL WOULD NEGATE ANY POSSIBLE BENEFIT.

6. FRISO ON FUTURE OF THE PORTUGUESE CGTP: FRISO STATED THE COMMUNISTS HAD INTELLIGENTLY DECIDED AGAINST SEEKING WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU) MEMBERSHIP FOR THE CGTP. RATHER, THEY SEEMED TO BE TRYING TO GET THE CGTP INTO THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) WHERE IT WOULD BE A MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR THEIR PURPOSES. FRISO SAID THERE WOULD BE PRESSURE TO BRING THE CGTP INTO THE ICFTU AFTER THE CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (THE GERMAN DGB REPRESENTATIVE) LEAVES

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OFFICE. MARIO SOARES HAS ASKED FRISO TO DELAY ANY EUROPEAN RECOGNITION OF THE CGTP "FOR ONLY TWO MORE YEARS"; O THE BASIS OF THE PS'S PAST PERFORMANCE FRISO IS NOT HOPEFUL THAT AN ADDITIONAL TWO YEARS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY ALTER THE INTERNAL PORTUGUESE LABOR SITUATION.

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7. FRISO ON NORWAY'S SANDEGREN: FRISO COMMENTED ON THE CONSISTENTLY UNHELPFUL ROLE PLAYED BY NORWAY'S KAARE SANDEGREN. DESCRIBING HIM AS THE "LEADING LEFTIST IN THE ICFTU", FRISO CITED EXAMPLES WHERE SANDEGREN'S INFLUENCE WAS DECISIVE:

--- THE SENDING OF A SCANDINAVIAN TRADE UNION DELEGATION TO CHILE, WHICH RECOMMENDED SUPPORT FOR THE LEFTIST U.P. ELEMENTS THERE AS WELL AS THE "GROUP OF TEN". THE DECISION TO SEND THE DELEGATION WAS MADE AFTER THE ICFTU BEGAN CHANNELING ASSISTANCE TO THE "GROUP OF TEN";

--- THE ORGANIZATION OF THE "EUROPEAN CAUCUS" WITHIN THE ILO;

--- CONSISTENT SUPPORT FOR EXPANDED EAST-WEST UNION TIES AND  
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INTERCHANGES;

--- INSISTENCE THAT ICFTU SUPPORT BE CHANNELED TO ALL SPANISH WORKER GROUPS, INCLUDING THE COMMUNIST WORKER COMMISSIONS, EVENTHOUGH THE ICFTU ALREADY HAD A RECOGNIZED SPANISH AFFILIATE, THE UGT.

--- FINALLY, SANDEGREN'S CONTINUING INSISTENCE ON DEALINGS WITH PORTUGAL'S CGTP AFTER COMMUNIST DOMINATION OF THE CONFEDERATION WAS CLEARLY APPARENT.

8. COMMENT: FRISO CLAIMED HE WAS TIRED FROM HIS TRIP AND FRUSTRATED BY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ICFTU. AS LABATT RECENTLY WAS POSTED IN PORTUGAL AND KNOWS SANDEGREN FROM COLLEGE DAYS, FRISO APPARENTLY WAS PLEASED TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO UNLOAD SOME OF HIS WORRIES.

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